

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 19, 20, and 23-29 are pending; Claims 1-18, 21, and 22 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and Claims 23-29 are newly added herewith.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6, 9-11, 14-17, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Shinohara et al. (U.S. pat. No. 6,188,744, hereafter Shinohara); Claims 7, 8, 12, 13, and 18 were objected to; and Claims 19 and 20 were allowed.

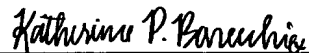
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 7, 8, 12, 13, and 18-20 contain allowable subject matter. Newly added Claims 23-29 substantially correspond to the allowable subject matter of Claims 7, 8, 12, 13, and 18. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by Claims 23-29 and that Claims 23-29 are allowable.

Because the rejected claims have been canceled by this amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejection of Claims 1-6, 9-11, 14-17, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Shinohara has been rendered moot by this amendment.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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